

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract of the application with the following amended Abstract:

An estrogen receptor gene and utilization of the estrogen gene are described. The estrogen receptor gene has comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for any of the following amino acid sequences: (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, (b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, ~~(e) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23,~~ (d) ~~(c)~~ an amino acid sequence exhibiting 95% or more amino acid identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~(e) and (d)~~ an amino acid sequence exhibiting 95% or more amino acid identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4[[,]] ~~and (f) an amino acid sequence exhibiting 85% or more amino acid identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23.~~